



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, PORTLAND DISTRICT  
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**Notification of Bonneville Lock and Dam Operation and Maintenance to EPA - Service Building Substation (named PRQ) Upgrade and Replacement Project**

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District (Corps) hereby notifies the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of a project to replace existing dry transformers and main switchgear at the Bonneville Lock and Dam Service Building located on Bradford Island (Figure 1). This project involves installing new underground electrical conduits, an outdoor A/C unit, and approximately 21 new vehicle bollards.

As part of operating the Bonneville Lock and Dam project, the Corps must maintain the Service Building. This entails replacing the PRQ substation and relocating the disconnect switches and transformers from the electrical room to the parking lot adjacent to the electrical room. The Corps constructed the Service Building in 1985 and most of the equipment in the building has reached the end of its design life. This replacement project will involve trenching for the conduit and installing vehicle bollards to protect the equipment. It will also involve emplacing new pavement and grade work where the new dry transformers will be placed. Three segments of trenching totaling 85 feet in length, at 18 inches wide and 32 inches deep, will be required to connect the new transformers to the existing underground concrete duct bank. A new electrical vault will be installed where the trench routes meet the existing buried conduits; the vault dimensions are 4 feet 8 inches square. Bollards will require footings that are approximately 15 inches in diameter and 24 inches deep.

In the event the duct bank has failed, the project will also entail excavating and reinstalling the bank, which traverses from the northwest corner of the Service Building to the Spillway South Tower. In this case the Corps will temporarily remove soils for an additional trench approximately 380 feet long, at 18 inches wide and 42 inches deep to access the duct bank. Following repair, these soils will be backfilled into the trench, and the area will be returned to its existing grade. Staging and access will occur on previously disturbed routes and no improvements are needed.

Soils removed during trenching activities will be returned to the area of excavation. If there is any excess soil from trenching activities, it will be tested and disposed of properly. Soil sampling and analysis will be conducted at the start of construction by a contractor.

The project will also involve installing a new AC unit on the outside of the Service Building near the northeast corner and installing two new bollards to protect the unit from possible damage. Each bollard will require a hole of at least 15 inches wide and 18 inches deep in the existing parking area.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added the Bradford Island federal facility to the National Priorities List (NPL) on March 16, 2022. The Corps is continuing to respond to legacy contamination in the Upland and River Operable Units (OUs) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Although the above-described ground-disturbing actions will take place within the Upland OU, they will occur outside of any areas of potential concern (AOPC).

Due to transport of sandblast grit via windblown dispersion from historical sandblast operations at the former sandblast building, metals contamination has the potential to be located within soil subject to disturbance as part of activities associated with the Service Building Substation (named PRQ) Upgrade and Replacement Project. No historical sampling results associated with the CERCLA investigation of Bradford Island exist at the location of proposed work. The Corps will therefore conduct sampling within the proposed area of soil disturbance, analyzing for Resource, Conservation, and Recovery Act (RCRA) metals in addition to contaminants of concern (COC) metals for the Sandblast AOPC that exceeded risk-based threshold concentrations (antimony, chromium, lead, nickel).

In the event the Corps discovers contamination, it will place any waste into Department of Transportation (DOT) approved drums (1A1/1A2) and will comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards, Corps EM 385-1-1 standards for safety and health requirements, 29 CFR § 1926.62 safety and health regulations, and all applicable state requirements pertaining to the proper generation, handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of waste.

The Corps invites the EPA to review the proposed project and recommend any additional measures or best management practices to ensure this maintenance project will not interfere with ongoing CERCLA investigation and future removal or remedial actions.

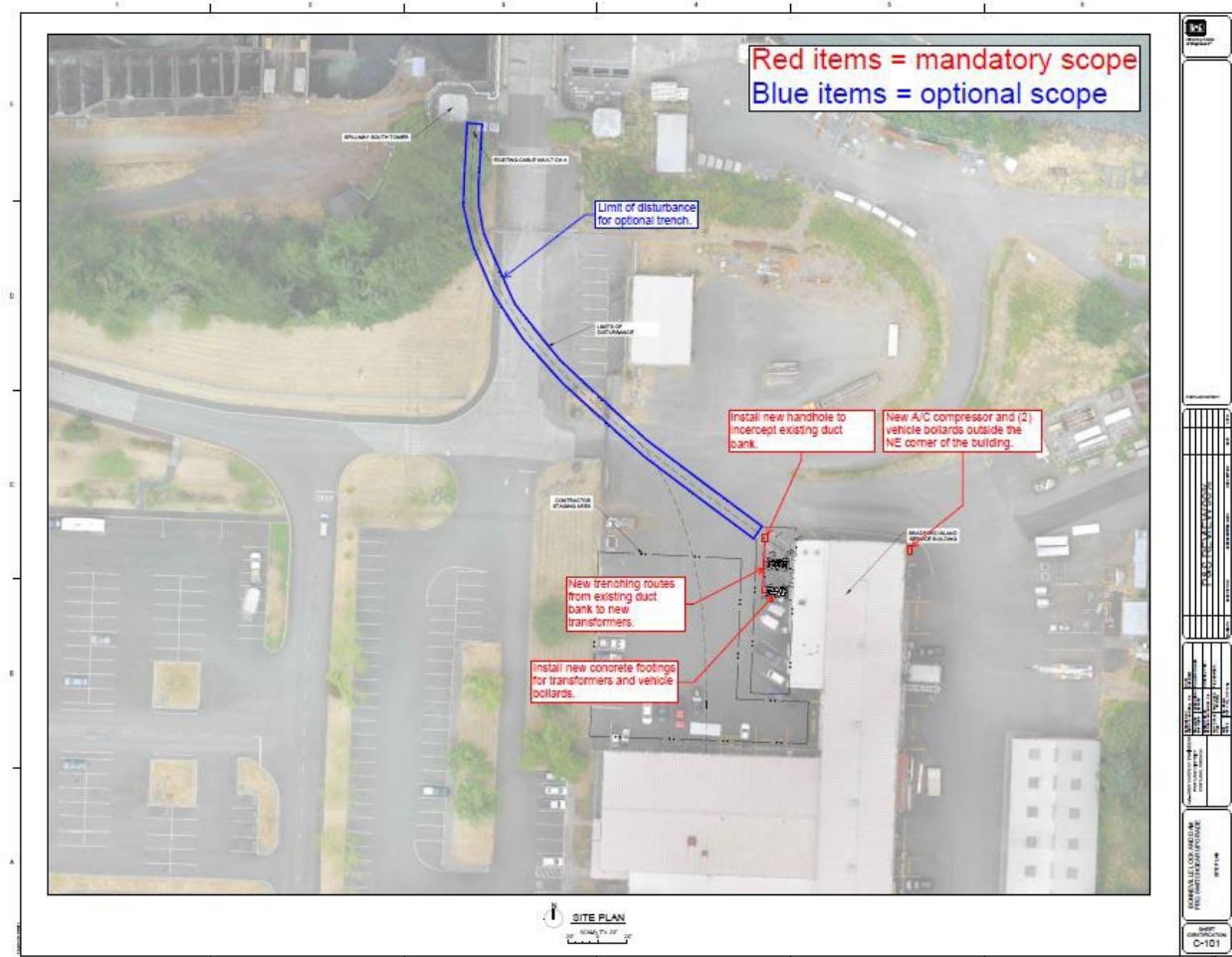


Figure 1. Service Building Substation Upgrade and Replacement Project Work Plan

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